Building a Library for 21st Century Learners

Lizah Imaani
Assistant Professor and Director of the Library

The A.J. Eastwood Library has served the Limestone College community since 1966. The day student enrollment for the college at that time was 350, and only a few evening classes were being offered to cater to adult learners. Forty-eight years later, the library is faced with a day student enrollment of nearly 1,200, a new online graduate program (the MBA program) that has a current enrollment of 64 students, and an Expanded Campus (EC) Program (Evening Classroom and Internet) that boasts of graduates who represent 60% of Limestone's total living alumni. In short, the library has outgrown its facility not only with regard to physical space, but also with regard to providing the resources necessary to meet the needs of students in a learning environment that has changed drastically. The new library that is being planned will be designed to accommodate both these concerns.

So what is the 21st century learning environment? Many agree that such an environment needs to include flexible, "technology-rich" spaces that foster collaborative engagement for students, faculty and academic support services staff.

proof Design:" for libraries. According to Brown, "Future-proof libraries thrive on change." And that such flexibility in terms of both physical space and library resources offered will allow academic libraries to remain "perpetually significant." To the A.J. Eastwood Library staff, remaining "perpetually significant" means to always be able to cater to the needs of its students and faculty. From a recent survey that the library conducted of day students' library use and preferences, a majority of students would like to see more computers (this is evident as the library had to turn away over 400 requests for computer use during the 2014 Spring semester because all of the eighteen laptops and eight computer stations were already being used), more quiet study spaces, and group study rooms (the current library does not have any group study rooms). Statistically, the library has seen foot traffic increase to continue every year since 2007, with numbers reaching 56,824 in the 2013-14 school year (it was 51,868 in 2012-13). Anecdotally, both students and faculty have informed library staff of their need for more electrical outlets (for charging their numerous mobile devices), classrooms for library instruction, access to more digital resources such as full-text articles and streaming media, collaborative spaces such as group study rooms and the inclusion of the Writing Lab in the library, and communal social and intellectual spaces, such as a café, conference rooms and a gallery.

From all the above, Limestone students and faculty are requesting a place that embodies what experts are calling the 21st century learning environment described earlier in this article. As a result, the new library at Limestone will include:

- More computer stations (over 60 computers, compared to 8 that are in the current library)
- Group Study rooms (one of which would be equipped with multimedia tools)
- Study carrels for quiet individual study
- Two classrooms
What Our Students Want: Results of a Library Survey Conducted in 2013
Katie Carpenter, Library Assistant

The plan for the new library is not based solely on adding more books. One of the main obligations of the library is to look at our students and what they need to succeed in their coursework. The library is an integral part of a student’s school career and should be focused on his or her needs and expectations.

With the students being a major focal point in the new design of the library, a survey was conducted which gave us insight into what the students want in a library as well as what their library habits are. We obtained a total of 240 responses. The majority of these students stated that they visited the library more than three times a week and a smaller number visited the library at least weekly. This shows that students visit the library frequently and take advantage of the numerous resources offered. The majority of students surveyed gave us their top three important areas to consider: More computers, group study rooms or more study space in general, and more comfortable furniture. The library staff agrees with all these ideas and is incorporating these “wants” into the new library being planned. The students should feel comfortable coming into the library knowing that the library is here to help them succeed.

The students surveyed pointed out that the most important need for the new library was more computers. Second in importance for those surveyed was the availability of group study rooms or general study space. The current building has study tables and carrels, but it is not well-designed for students who are solely interested in quiet study. The open design of the building makes it quite noisy and doesn’t allow enough quiet space for some students who want silence when they are focused on their studies. Similarly, it also doesn’t allow students to gather in private groups to work without the risk of annoying other students nearby.

The students surveyed also noted that they would like more comfortable furniture. The library was able to purchase a limited quantity of more comfortable sectional furniture in 2013, and it has been a big hit. The students like the idea of coming into the library and having a cozy place to sit and do their school work. The new furniture allows them to come in and work comfortably for extended periods of time.

Aside from providing equipment and study spaces, the library staff is also faced with an increase in the number of library visitors. The library has been tracking the number of visitors for years. The gate count (which records foot traffic) shows that more and more students are using the library. In the last three years, the library has seen a great increase in the number of users coming in and taking advantage of the resources offered. The library has seen a 5 percent increase in foot traffic in 2011-12 double to almost 10 percent in 2012-13. These numbers help predict that the library is going to continue to be a very popular spot on campus.

The new library is designed to meet not only the space demands resulting from the increasing number of library visitors; it will also address students’ concerns regarding more computer equipment, study spaces and comfortable furniture.
The Changing Library Collection

Steve Smith, Associate Professor and Technical Services Librarian

At a time when many are calling into question the relevance of the library itself, numerous antiquated libraries continue to be startlingly renovated and transformed, and new libraries continue to be brilliantly imagined and constructed.

An old hand at considering the nature of the library building itself, Director Ruth Miller of the University of Southern Indiana library lists several essential characteristics of the best possible library. To enumerate, the library must first fit into the campus master plan and relate positively to existing buildings as well as future projects. The library must accommodate recent changes in technology and teaching styles in providing both print and electronic resources, numerous types of study spaces, and an increasing variety of functions.

The library must be easy to use and demonstrate clear organization, offering flexibility in many types of technology and even serving non-library functions when called upon. The library’s interior must provide an attractive professional atmosphere with good lighting, appealing decor, and comfortable furnishings that users will find conducive to easier research and study. The range of mobile seating and work stations currently available these days is extensive and striking. A variety of spaces must be made available, whether individual sitting areas with carrels or closed group study rooms equipped with a table, chairs, and whiteboard. And, it must not be forgotten that the 21st century library requires plenty of well-placed electrical outlets and Wi-Fi wireless access, as well. The building also must present a secure environment, particularly if plans include a 24-hour study area. Among today’s primary considerations are library construction standards that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

While the modern library is restructuring and repurposing its space and sense of place, the collections of the modern library in the past twenty years are continually being shaped by the massive growth in the amounts of digital information now available in the form of electronic books, e-journals, and e-videos. The 1990s saw the introduction of the “information commons,” “designated spaces with additional technology to support student learning.” An emphatic shift from print to electronic format has resulted in a “learning commons” – a technology-infused flexible learning environment. In the past, the library’s chief role was that of purchaser and accumulator of physical materials (primarily books and journals). That has changed as librarians increasingly see themselves as providing an information gateway to purchased databases through the library’s website. The ascendency of online instruction and distance education has played an enormous part in the current emphasis on “access instead of ownership.” Although ten years ago library users were already using more electronic information than print, libraries still maintained considerable back runs of journals in print format. That trend is reversing as storage space is often at a premium and electronic information is increasingly secure as long as the institution supports a comprehensive digital preservation plan. It has been estimated that the cost for housing and preserving the average university journal collection in print runs to hundreds of thousands of dollars per year.

Although reference materials in print still occupy a prominent place in most academic libraries, most students do not make a clear distinction between reference and the regular circulating collection – it’s simply information to them. Thus, we see libraries cutting back on print reference in favor of electronic access, and many large academic libraries are blending their print reference titles into the circulating collection or are making them available only digitally. For the student library user of today, “convenience affects all aspects of information seeking.” With the search engine Google and even the Internet’s Wikipedia as the leading research sources of choice by students, the challenge of the 21st century library is to “provide immediate, seamless access to sources and information.” Another new important aspect of the library’s changing collection is the expanding use of mobile devices such as the Apple iPad or other computer tablet. Many academic libraries now make these devices available to be checked out by library users, much like a book.

According to the US Library Survey 2013, the higher education environment is characterized by the “loss of primacy” of library print collections, the emphasis having shifted to remote access of online resources. A large majority of library directors report “that the expansion of local print collections is becoming less important, even among doctoral institutions.” Most survey respondents emphasize the importance of inter-library resource sharing (such as our statewide PASCAL Delivers) and other collaborative approaches to obtaining print materials for the library user. So, while the print collection remains very important and continues to grow, that growth is not nearly as pronounced as it was two decades ago.

To better manage the use of space in the modern library, new library construction often includes the installation of compact or mobile shelving (shelving that can be

[Compact Shelving] frees up space needed for group study rooms, quiet study spaces and collaborative spaces, all of which are in high demand.

...
Knowledge Is Power” Challenge Will Add $1 Million For Limestone Library

Charles Wyatt, Director of Communications

Limestone College officials expect that a second challenge gift from a charitable foundation will provide the inspiration needed to bring a new library to the main campus in Gaffney.

The Today’s Mazda ... TOMORROW’s DREAMS capital campaign, now underway, seeks to raise a total of $12 million, including $6 million for the new library, $4.8 million for athletics improvements, and $1.2 million for the “Limestone Fund.” To date, over $8.5 million has been pledged to the capital campaign.

On behalf of the Betsy M. Campbell Foundation, a week prior to the recent spring Trustee meetings, Limestone Trustee William Brown issued a challenge to the school to raise $2 million by December 31, 2014, in order to receive an additional $1 million contribution for the library. Limestone officials have tapped the fund-raising effort as the “Knowledge Is Power” Challenge.

“Knowledge Is Power” Challenge will go a long way in making our dream of a new library for our students a reality.

In the spring of 2013, the Robert S. Campbell Foundation pledged $750,000 toward the athletics portion of the capital campaign, after Limestone accepted a similar challenge to raise $1.5 million. A new outdoor sports locker room facility has been constructed, and several other athletics facility improvements have been made, with more to come.

“We have literally run out of space and the time is now for a new library,” Dr. Griffin said of the current building.

“We are so appreciative of the confidence that William Brown and the Betsy M. Campbell Foundation have in us to meet this second challenge that will complete the library portion of the overall capital campaign,” said Limestone College President Dr. Walt Griffin.

“The ‘Knowledge Is Power’ Challenge will go a long way in making our dream of a new library for our students a reality. This continues to be an exciting time for the Limestone College family and our community.”

The new library will allow other campus programs to expand into the A.J. Eastwood building, relieving some space issues on other parts of campus, Dr. Griffin added.

Kelly Curtis, Limestone’s Vice President for Institutional Advancement, is the Director of the Capital Campaign, and she sees this new challenge grant as an opportunity to reach the $6 million finish line for the library.

“This second challenge we have been so fortunate to receive will provide our students with state-of-the-art library facilities they need and deserve,” Curtis noted. “This new library will be the academic hub on campus, while being a major asset to the Gaffney and Cherokee County communities as well. We are embracing this opportunity, and we have our sleeves rolled up and we are already hard at work to meet this fund-raising goal.”

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Makes a Great Gift and Assists Limestone in Reaching Its Library Fund-Raising Goal

For a LIMITED TIME ONLY, local residents, alumni, and friends of Limestone College are invited to be a part of history by purchasing personalized, engraved bricks on the entrance plaza of the new library once it is constructed. For only $118.45 each, the bricks are a wonderful way to leave your legacy at Limestone, and also make great gifts for family and friends.

The “Pave The Way” initiative will assist Limestone in reaching its $2 million “Knowledge Is Power” Challenge goal by December 31, 2014, in order to receive a $1 million matching grant from the Betsy M. Campbell Foundation to help construct the new library on the main campus in Gaffney.

For more information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 864-488-4607 or email AlumniOffice@Limestone.edu.
Limestone has also launched its "Pave The Way" brick sales initiative—for a limited time only—to provide a steady stream of donations to its current capital campaign that will build a new library on campus.

Students, parents, faculty and staff, alumni, and friends of Limestone College are encouraged to purchase personalized bricks that will pave the entranceway into the library, which will be built between Montgomery Hall and the Carroll Fine Arts facility.

Playing to Limestone’s history and founding year, the individual bricks are $118.45 each.

“These personalized bricks in the library walkway are the least expensive naming-rights opportunity ever on the Limestone College campus,” explained Kelly Curtis, Limestone’s Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and Director of the Capital Campaign. “That’s why this initiative has been so popular. People have asked about a brick initiative for a couple of years, and we are thrilled that we introduced this as a way to help fund our new library. The response has been overwhelming, but we’re still accepting brick orders at this time.”

To donate to the “Knowledge Is Power” Challenge, or to buy a “Pave The Way” brick, visit www.Limestone.edu/Giving. For more information call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (864) 488-4607.
use of tablets and various interactive apps has allowed library instruction to evolve into an engaging and exciting exploration of research concepts.

Change is inevitable and the library and library staff cannot move forward without meeting the expectations of today's students. The new library will connect and serve the Limestone College community by developing physical and virtual services that will demonstrate the value of the library's role in the dynamic and vibrant learning environment that has become the new norm in higher education. The new library building will include the latest technological advancements, thus redesigning and enhancing the already-existing services of the A.J. Eastwood Library.

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Preparing Students To Be Information Literate In The New Millennium

Susan Moore, Assistant Professor and Instruction Librarian/Archivist

Statistics demonstrate the success of the library's instructional program. During the 2009-2010 inaugural year, 36 instructional sessions were delivered. With increasing enrollment, the instructional needs have increased as well, resulting in the 2013-2014 academic year with librarians providing 114 instructional sessions. The majority of those sessions contained unique, course specific information with approximately 60% delivered face-to-face in the library classroom.

In addition, library usage directly impacts student grades. The University of Minnesota recently published a comprehensive statistical survey of library usage and the effect on student outcomes. The University found that "first-year students who used the library reported a .23 higher grade point average over students who did not use any library services." Specifically, library activities that positively influenced students' grades were "using the library workstations, accessing online databases, accessing electronic journals, and checking out books."

The Limestone library is implementing a more consistent assessment of its instructional program's learning outcomes. Two years ago, librarians assessed two sections of EN 102 students who had attended library instruction sessions by conducting a pre-test (a library related questionnaire before instruction) and a post-test (the same questionnaire after instruction). The results were very encouraging. Students showed marked improvements from the pre-test, particularly on questions, including questions on plagiarism and searching for sources.

The Limestone College library staff looks forward to helping prepare Limestone students be better equipped to conduct research, and become thriving life-long learners.

needed in a culture that is saturated with digital technology. Success in the 21st century is synonymous with skills that translate into students who are:

- Lifelong learners
- Comfortable with identifying relevant digital information
- Adept in interpreting research data

The A.J. Eastwood Library has implemented an instructional program that addresses these skills. Working together with teaching faculty, librarians design instruction sessions that meet the specific needs of both students and faculty. The new library building will include a technologically advanced information literacy classroom that will further enhance these efforts. Librarians will be able to utilize a variety of instructional methods that reflect current learning styles to keep students engaged and motivated.
From The Faculty's Perspective

Dr. Shelly Meyers, Chair, Division of Education and Physical Education, and Dr. Paule Schubert, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education

The A.J. Eastwood Library at Limestone College provides services that are invaluable to the Teacher Education Program. For Target level performance, NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) Standard 5 requires that, "Faculty and candidates have access to exemplary library, curricular, and electronic information resources that serve not only the unit but also the broader constituency." In order to meet this requirement and therefore the needs of the Teacher Education Program which is designed in a professional development school format, the A.J. Eastwood Library serves not only Limestone faculty and teacher candidates, but practicing teachers in the community as well.

Although library services, including online resources such as e-books, e-videos and full-text journal articles, library research instruction, document delivery, and direct borrowing of books are only for Limestone students, practicing teachers in the community have access to the online resources if they visit the library.

Additionally, the 21st century teacher must be able to use technology to communicate in oral and written form. Students at Limestone have access to 8 computers, 18 laptops and the newly acquired 20 iPad minis at the current library, allowing them to produce multimedia communication projects that would enable them to be competitive in the 21st century job market upon graduation. However, due to increased enrollment and demand for such technologies, the current library is unable to provide sufficient computer resources to meet all of the students' needs in this regard. To remedy this, plans for the new library will include over 60 computer stations and collaborative study rooms potentially equipped with multimedia technology. Coupled with expert librarians, Limestone's teacher candidates are able to research content and strategies needed for their field experiences and student teaching.

In fact, the new library on campus will offer significant support to the students and the faculty with a variety of new technologies. Teacher Education Program standards require that future teachers are familiar with evidence-based practices. A state of the art library allows Education faculty at Limestone not only to inform teacher candidates of those practices, but model them in classroom instruction.

One such area where the above can be realized in the current library is the Curriculum Lab which houses materials that would likely be found in a school resource room. Teacher guides, children’s and adolescent literature, manipulatives, and assistive classroom technology are just a few of those resources which help us to prepare highly qualified teachers. By creating a Curriculum Lab that mirrors a typical modern classroom, our candidates are able to practice prior to instruction in the field. The new library will have such a space, allowing Education faculty to "develop enlightened educators" for generations to come.

The library is the soul of the liberal arts campus. Students are often found gathering in the library to prepare for exams and collaborate on projects. The new library will be both the heart and soul of the Limestone campus. Its role as the gathering place for both intellectual and social activities will be greatly enhanced with the addition of a cafe, a gallery, student support services such as the Writing Lab, and a variety of flexible collaborative spaces to suit the needs of a diverse and vibrant campus community.

...the A.J. Eastwood Library serves not only Limestone faculty and teacher candidates, but practicing teachers in the community as well.

Library Outreach:
Providing Intellectual and Social Activities for Students, Faculty and Staff

Justin Davis, Library Public Services Manager

Reaching out to the campus community, and particularly to students, is an important part of the library services offered at Limestone. Events that both educate and entertain help acquaint the Limestone community with the many library resources and services that are available to them, allowing the library to function as the intellectual and social hub of campus.

The library's outreach activities for the 2013-14 academic year began in the Fall with the customary Library Open House, this year rebranded "Know Your Library Day." The library staff took turns managing the library tent established in front of the fountain. Students who dropped by the tent were greeted and encouraged to make the short trek to the library to collect a door prize ticket, and many did. Thanks to the generous support of local business and library vendors, numerous door prizes were awarded and distributed, including gift cards for local restaurants and shops. The Spring semester was especially exciting this year. For the first time at Limestone, the library held events during National Library Week. The first event was a mini-conference called Faculty Recognition Day, which offered an opportunity for faculty members to present their current and past research and writings. We had a very encouraging response from the faculty resulting in a full slate of speakers, eight in total, for the six half-hour presentation slots. All the time slots had an audience, and some presenters brought their classes to attend. A similar event is already planned for next year, which will feature current students' research.

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Café. The hope is to have multiple iPad Café sessions throughout the year. Attendees at the sessions will bring their personal iPads, or borrow one of the library’s, and be invited to learn about new and interesting features of iPads and the various apps available for download. The sessions will be led by Limestone Elementary Education students. The first iPad Café is planned for members of the campus community, with subsequent events being open to individuals outside of the immediate campus, but directed particularly to teachers in the area school districts.

And finally, as always, exam week refreshments were served last year as a service to students during the most hectic points of the academic calendar. Although this service is aimed primarily at students, anyone passing through is welcome to this popular library offering.

When the new library is built, the library’s outreach goals will continue to focus on educating the campus community about the various services the library has to offer, in addition to promoting the space of the library itself as an important asset to the college.

The reason for developing an archival collection is to preserve valuable materials that relate to the history of Limestone College. The archives collection therefore plays an important role in providing access to this material to students, researchers, administrators, alumni, and community members.

Recent Events in the Archives:

- A historical marker has been donated for the Limestone Quarry by Mrs. Virginia Skinner, a trustee and 1950 graduate. It will be unveiled in December 2014, during fall graduation.
- Susan Moore and Nancy Rilling traveled to Georgetown, S.C. this summer to record oral history presented by Mrs. Virginia Skinner. This meeting was the first of many planned interviews that will attempt to establish an accurate oral history of the Limestone College tradition. It is important to record the tradition of Limestone as seen and experienced by students who have attended the college. Interviews of former long-standing Limestone faculty and staff are also being planned. Interviews offer a way to acquire multiple viewpoints by different voices and to see how history can be interpreted in different ways. It is hoped that the Limestone Archives Oral History Project will be an essential exhibit of the Archives in the new library building.

- A watercolor painting depicting the buildings of historic Georgetown was donated to the archives in July. The painting is by Elizabeth "Lib" Fielder Ferdon '50. The painting was given by her husband, Richard Ferdon and family in memory of "Lib".

Currently, the Archives are located in the A.J. Eastwood Library basement, a crowded 352-square-foot space. We look forward to our new library where the Archives will find a home in a visitor-friendly space of approximately 1200 square feet. This increase will allow for a public Reading Room where patrons can research and examine existing archival records. The Reading Room will also provide space for instruction on the preservation of personal materials along with lectures on historical topics for the community at large. Expanded storage space will provide a climate controlled area to properly store framed objects in addition to providing room for larger shelving to hold oversized boxes. There will also be a work room where Archives staff can more easily process materials which are donated to the college.

The Library is usually known for quiet, but on the second day of National Library Week, this rule was temporarily suspended.
Library Staff Highlight: Nancy Rilling, Archives Custodian

Nancy Rilling came to Gaffney in 1986 with her husband Dave, who was hired to be the VP for Finance at Limestone College. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in Physical Education, but spent only three years teaching before she married Dave and began to raise their children, David and Meredith. Upon coming to Gaffney, Nancy realized that she needed an occupation, as Meredith was away at a private high school and David was in college.

In December 1987, Nancy began work at A.J. Eastwood Library. After working full time in the library for 20 years as a Library Assistant, Nancy started working part-time as both Library Assistant and the library’s Archives Custodian. In 2010, Nancy started devoting all her time to the archives. Her love for Limestone College and her desire to see that Limestone’s history was preserved made her the perfect Archives Custodian for the Library.

Nancy has been a great asset to the Archives. She has converted 340 sq. feet of basement space that housed numerous boxes stuffed with a variety of different types of material into an organized, inventoried space that is much more research-friendly. This conversion of the archives was no easy feat, Nancy painstakingly and diligently went through an enormous backlog of materials. She applied all that she learned from the various professional development sessions she had attended since 2007, including training as a SCAN artist; in Disaster Recovery and Response; Arrangement, Description, and Preservation; Policies and Best Practices for Archival Management; and Archival Boot Camp. But all her hard work has paid off. Researchers can now come and find material for their projects without a great deal of trouble. However, they are just not able to work continuously or at length in a space that is still too cramped. Nancy looks forward to seeing a larger space for the Archives in the new library that is being planned.

The library staff at A.J. Eastwood Library feels very fortunate to work with Nancy whose joy, enthusiasm, and dynamic personality are infectious. She is a wonderful resource not only for her colleagues in the library but also for the Limestone College community as well as local history buffs researching the College’s storied past.

New Staff

Justin Davis has worked at the Eastwood Library since August of 2013. During his time working at Limestone, he completed his MLIS from the University of South Carolina, graduating in December of 2013. With the start of the 2014-15 academic year, he has now fully transitioned into his new role as the library’s Manager of Public Services. Outside of the library, Justin enjoys reading, of course. He is especially fond of music, having been an amateur musician for most of his life. On the weekends, he enjoys hiking in the mountains and exploring the cultural activities the region has to offer. Justin is a great asset to the library, particularly in organizing outreach activities for students, faculty and staff. We are extremely pleased to have him as part of our library team.

Katie Carpenter, Library Assistant

Katie Carpenter received her B.A. in Studio Art from Limestone College in 2012, and has come back to Limestone, the place she fell in love with, to take on the role of Library Assistant at the A.J. Eastwood Library. Since her graduation, she has taken on different jobs, trying to find a place to utilize her organizational skills along with her love of art. She has found that place at the Eastwood Library, where she creates eye-catching flyers and displays for the library as well as performs administrative assistant duties. Before returning to Limestone, she was a dedicated worker at the Spartanburg Humane Society, where she fell in love with almost every animal that came through the door. Since leaving there, she continues to return as often as she can to volunteer her time with the animals, along with painting murals in the kennels to make the animals feel more at home during their stay at the Humane Society. When she is not spending time with the animals, she is usually at home making gifts for friends and family to keep her hands and mind busy. The library staff is thrilled to have Katie as a member of our staff, and we look forward to the creative ideas that she brings to her work.